(d) AAI imposes penal interest on these defaulting airlines and court cases/arbitration and cases under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupation) Act 1971 have been filed against them in various courts of the country.

Fleet utilisation of AI

2017. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the utilisation of Air India's fleet is lower than the industry average in the past few years;

(b) if so, what has been the results of efforts made by Government to increase the fleet utilisation of Air India during the past few years; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by Government to improve the fleet utilisation of Air India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) The utilisation of A310-300 aircraft by Air India is better than the industry average. However, the utilisation of B-747 classic aircraft is very low as these aircraft are very old and are economically unviable to operate and therefore, they are being phased out. The utilisation of B-747-400 aircraft is marginally lower than the industry average due to scheduling done on commercial basis resulting in lower average stage length and higher average ground time.

Repatriation from Gulf Countries

2018. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give concession in India Airlines and Air India to the repatriates who are returning from Gulf Countries by availing general amnesty.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign Airlines have expressed their willingness to transport the repatriates to India free of cost;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider the repatriation by making use of this facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. Air India is offering special fares which are approximately 15% lower than the market fare to passengers who are returning under the General Amnesty Scheme. The General Amnesty period is from 01 January, 2003 to 31 March, 2003. The special fare is valid from Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Al-Ain. Similarly Indian Airlines is offering special amnesty fares which are 20% lower than the market fares.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Committee on dispute between AI and IA

2019. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a dispute between Air India and Indian Airlines over international operations under bilateral air services agreements;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any Committee has been set up to resolve the dispute;

(d) if so, the contours of the Committee; and

(e) by when, the Committee propose to submit their findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (e) A three-member Committee has been constituted to examine the issue of route rationalisation between Air India and Indian Airlines for their common international operations taking in to account their views and keeping in view the short term/long term interests of the two airlines etc. The Committee is presently at the initial stage of its functioning.